

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for managing packet voice networks using a virtual switch approach and abstract information model approach is disclosed. A virtual switch object represents a virtual switch having a media gateway controller and one or more associated media gateways. User input
5 specifies a configuration operation on the virtual switch and one or more parameter values.

One or more configuration instructions are automatically issued to both the media gateway controller and the media gateway, resulting in configuring both the media gateway controller and the media gateway as specified in the user input. As a result, a user can configure or operate on a virtual switch as an atomic entity, for example, in a network management
10 application, without involvement in complicated details of the actual network devices that provide a particular packet voice service.